

**Message #29****Numbers 27:1-23**

One of the things we certainly have observed by going through this book of Numbers is that God is a God of His people and no one in His family is just a number. He is a very personal God. He keeps track of all of His people. He knows who they are and He knows where they live. He actually assigned Israel places to live. He gives different skills and abilities to individuals. He knows their names and their ages.

He is a God who is concerned about their needs, which He meets; He is a God who is concerned about their sin, which He punishes and He is a God who is concerned about their forgiveness, which He graciously gives. In the big world of humanity with all of the millions and millions of people, no one is just a number when it comes to God.

This fact is amazing. God is actually concerned for the personal needs of His people and His people have different needs. Never is that point more obvious than when we come to Numbers 27.

**GOD IS A GOD WHO PROVIDES FOR THE PHYSICAL NEEDS OF HIS PEOPLE IN LIFE AND HE PROVIDES FOR THE SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP OF HIS PEOPLE IN DEATH.**

In Numbers 27, there are three main topics that are addressed, which all show God is a Personal God who cares for His people and provides for His people:

**TOPIC #1 – God meets the housing needs of five daughters. 27:1-11**

We may recall that the land allotments for the tribes were to be determined by the size of the tribes. But this presented a problem for five daughters. They were anxious and wondering about where they would live.

They were daughters of Zelophehad. Now the pedigree of Zelophehad is carefully spelled out in **verse 1**. Zelophehad had five daughters: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah and Tirzah. None of the daughters were married at the present time.

According to **verse 2**, they went to Moses and Eleazar the priest and before the leaders of Israel at the door of the sacred tabernacle to state their case. Carefully observe they are respectful and submissive and reverent. They are not demanding anything. They come to the proper authorities to state their case. These land matters are critical to this nation. The anticipation was building for getting this land.

God's world is a man's world. That is not going to change. If you don't like that, it is just too bad. You don't have to like it or agree with it or submit to it, but that is the way it is. You will miss out on many wonderful blessings if you don't submit to this truth because this is the truth. God created man first and He has put man in charge and it was the woman who first sinned and that is the way it is. But God also made women and He cares about them and He cares about their needs and when these daughters went to Moses and Eleazar, they got a hearing.

Their father, Zelophehad, had died in the wilderness like all others over 20. Now he was a family member in Manasseh's family line. But he had not joined in with Korah and participated in his rebellion. He refused to have anything to do with it (**verse 3**).

**He died as all sinners die, but he did not die in the punishment execution judgment against the Korah rebels. He died because he is a sinner and death is a penalty for sin and it is the same reason every one of us will die (Romans 5:12).**

We don't know how he died or where he died, but we do know why he died. He died because he was a sinner. We don't know the specific sin or sins that led to his death. I don't think he died in any specific sin punishment. It wasn't that he died when he grumbled and complained. It wasn't that he died with the manna quail issue. It wasn't that he died by fiery serpents or that he sinned with the Moabite women. We don't know why or how, but he did die. He died because he was a sinner, which is why we will die.

Now when Zelophehad died, he did not leave any sons. Instead he had five daughters. The daughters were concerned about where they would live. They were not married.

So in **verse 4**, the daughters said why should our father's name be withdrawn just because he didn't have any sons? So they requested that they get the possession that should have gone to their father.

When the daughters married, the father's name would be gone and they did not want that to happen.

**Verse 5** again shows us that Moses was not some know-it-all leader, even though at this point in life, he is nearing his own death he knows a lot. He still could learn things so he went to God and talked to God about it.

Proverbs says a wise man will continue to hear and increase in learning and will acquire wise counsel (Prov. 1:5). Even though Moses was old and nearing his own death, he still was learning and talking to God because he needed more knowledge.

According to **verse 6**, the Lord spoke to Moses concerning this situation:

In **verse 7-9**, God answered Moses and gave him six answers, which according to **verse 11** was to become a statutory ordinance, which is a legal requirement:

**Answer #1** - The daughters are right. **27:7a**

This is very fascinating. God keeps track of things pertaining to His people and He knows when they are thinking and acting right.

**Answer #2** - You should give the daughters their father's inheritance. **27:7b**

God provides physically for His people whether they be men or women.

**Answer #3** - You shall communicate to Israel that if a father dies with no son, he should give the inheritance to the daughter. **27:8**

God took it further. God gives a series of hypothetical possibilities of things that could happen.

If a father died with no son, the land should go to the daughter.

**Answer #4** - You shall communicate to Israel that if a man dies with no children, his inheritance shall go to his brother. **27:9**

If a father died with no children, then the land was to go to the father's brother.

**Answer #5** - You shall communicate to Israel that if a man dies with no brothers, his inheritance shall go to his father's brothers. **27:10**

If a father died with no brothers, then the land was to go to his father's brothers.

**Answer #6** - You shall communicate to Israel that if a man dies and his father had no brothers, his inheritance shall go to the nearest relatives. **27:11**

If the father died and his father had no brothers, then it was to go to the nearest relative.

Now the point of this is that this is the Promised Land and it belongs to Israel and to the tribes of Israel, and it is not to change hands. There will be a land inheritance and family preservation of Israel.

What we know right now is that Israel is not in this land and she does not have this land and the various family tribes are not living and enjoying this land. This land is mostly controlled by Arabs, not Jews. That will all change.

**TOPIC #2** – God meets the personal death needs of Moses. **27:12-14**

This text is very touching and very humbling. According to **verse 12**, God told the aged Moses that He wanted him to go up the mountain so he could see the Promised Land.

Now the mountain was named Abarim, which was a specific peak located on Mount Nebo (Deut. 34:1).

From there he was able to look down at the Promised Land that God would give Israel.

God told him in **verse 13**, when you get up there and you have seen the land, you will be gathered to your people. In other words, you will die like Aaron, your brother. In **verse 14**, God reminds Moses why he is not going into the land which was because Moses had become angry and struck the rock twice for water, which is not what God told him to do (Num. 20:1-13).

If Moses lost this for one rebellious action, it would seem to me the rest of us have probably lost much for our many rebellious actions. I doubt there will be anyone who got every reward possible because since we are all sinners, which is the reason we die, we have all missed the mark. But we can experience great blessings from God even though this is reality.

The lesson to learn here is that the ultimate blessings come to those who faithfully and specifically obey God's Word. Obedience is a mandatory prerequisite to reward and inheritance.

Now we want to make an application of this. If God could show Moses how his failure as a man of God cost him what could have been, then He will certainly be able to do that with you and me. I expect the Bema Seat Judgment will point out what could have been if we hadn't done this or that. If this happened to a man of the caliber of Moses, it certainly will to us.

### **TOPIC #3 – God meets the future leadership needs with Joshua. 27:15-23**

Now what is fascinating is that when Moses is informed that he is going to die, he doesn't request that he not die. He does not ask God for more years. What he does is to ask God that He would rise up a leader who would watch out for the welfare of the people.

In **verse 16**, Moses identifies God as "the God of the spirits of all flesh." What Moses asks is that God would make a sovereign selection from all humanity and choose a leader who will lead the people as a shepherd (**verse 17**).

Moses' concern was for the welfare of the people. He knew they needed a leader, but not just any leader, God's choice of leader. By the way, Moses needed to do this. Moses was the leader and he needed to pray this. These other people were in no position to pray for a replacement leader, but Moses was.

According to **verse 18**, God chose Joshua. He told Moses to put his hand on him and have him stand before Eleazar and before all the congregation that he would be publicly commissioned to lead the nation (**verse 19**).

God told Moses to put some of his authority on Joshua in order that the entire nation will obey him (**v. 20**).

According to **verse 21**, Joshua was to consult with the priest. The Urim and Thummim were kept in the high priest's breastplate and they were some form of revelatory means where God communicated His will to the priest and people. This was some form of casting lots.

According to **verses 22-23**, Moses did exactly what God asked him to do.

The thing that leaps out from this text is how Personal God actually is. He cared about five girls. He cared about Moses. He cared about Leadership.

God cares about us individually.